



BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

INCORPORATING THAT OF THE

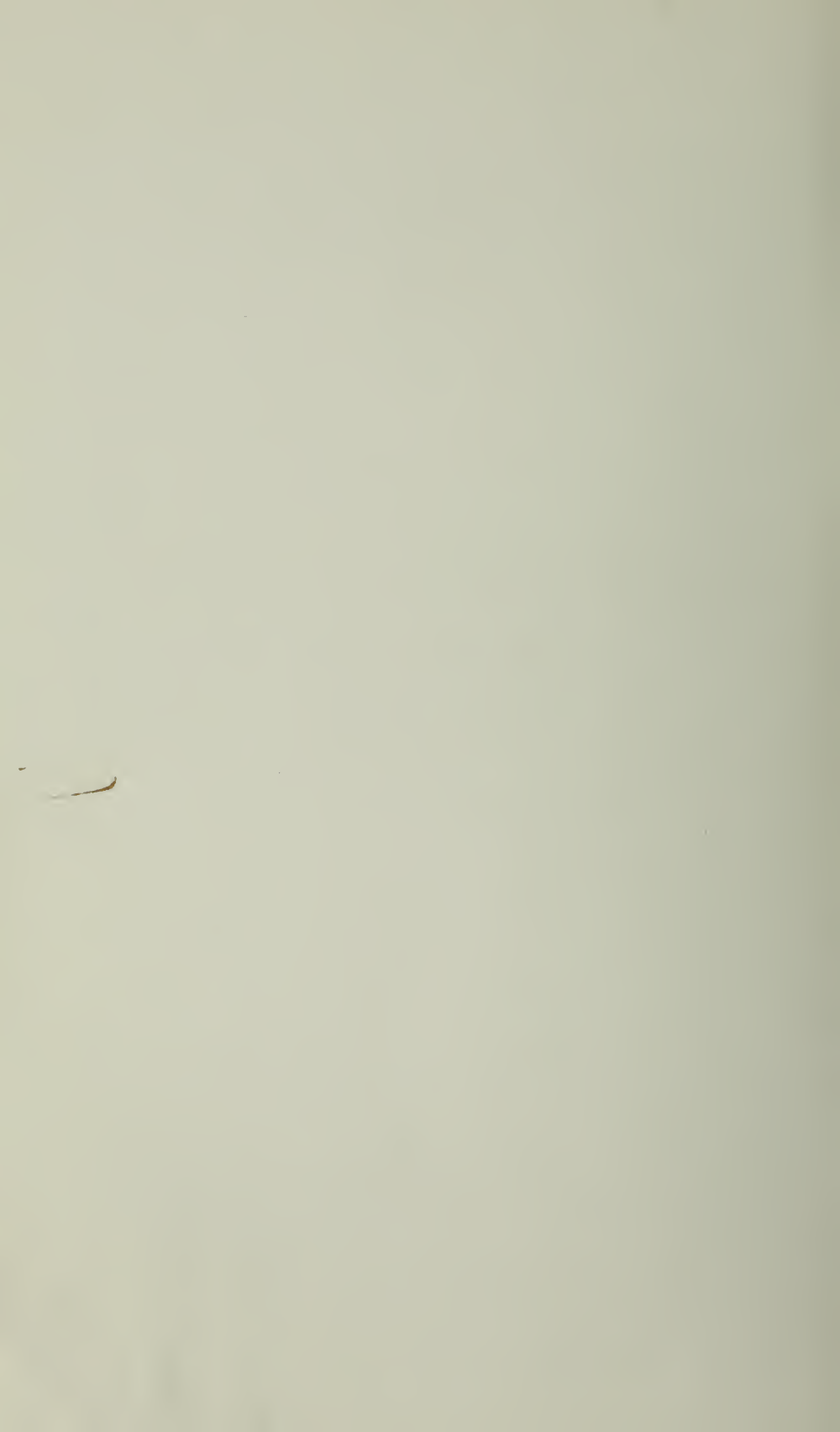
Senior Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1963



PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT
"DINSDALE"
MARINE TERRACE
BLYTH
NORTHUMBERLAND



Borough of Bayk. Northumberland
MOH. A.R. 1963.

ERRATA.

In all references to Infant Deaths the figures should be increased by one to eleven, and the I.M.R. from 15.1 to 16.6 per 1,000 live births.

On page 16 under Causes of Infant Deaths a new line should be added:-

11. Inhalation of vomit. F. Home. 6 months. Yes.



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MARINE TERRACE

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NORTHUMBERLAND

MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman: THE MAYOR,
COUNCILLOR A. RUTHERFORD, J.P.

Vice-Chairman: COUNCILOR BREADIN

ALDERMAN	BARKER	COUNCILLOR	MORTAKIS
„	CURRY, B.E.M., J.P.	„	POLLOCK
„	ELDER, B.E.M.	„	PURVES
„	KENNEDY	„	TWEDDLE
„	SMITH	„	WATERS
„	SUMMERS	„	WATTS
COUNCILLOR	DONOHUE	„	WILLIAMS
„	HAXON	„	WOOLFREY
„	HUDSPITH		
„	MARSHALL		
„	MORDUE		

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT, 1963

<i>Medical Officer of Health</i>	A. DONALDSON, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.
<i>Senior Public Health Inspector</i> ...	G. A. GILL, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector</i>	W. ALLAN, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Additional Public Health Inspector</i>	R. CHEETHAM, M.A.P.H.I.
<i>Clerk</i>	V. COLPITTS
<i>Shorthand Typist</i>	M. HOPE
<i>Rodent Officer</i>	B. WADE

BOROUGH



OF BLYTH

*With the Compliments of the
Medical Officer of Health*

BOROUGH OF BLYTH

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR THE YEAR 1963

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the Public Health and Sanitary Conditions in the Borough during the year 1963.

The population continues to rise—an increase of 40 over 1962 bringing the figure to 36,440. Live births increased as well to a total of 660, giving an uncorrected birth rate of 18.1 per 1,000 population.

The number of deaths also increased, however, to 413. This is the highest figure since 1950. The crude death rate was 11.3 per 1,000 population compared with 9.9 in 1962. No particular disease was the cause of this rise—deaths from heart disease, cancer, arterial disease, etc., all increased. The number of infant deaths fell to 10, a decrease of 5 from 1962. This figure gave an Infant Mortality Rate of 15.1 per 1,000 live births and it is the lowest ever recorded in Blyth. This is an indication of the care taken and service given by general practitioners, consultants, hospital staff, district nurses and health visitors. All play their part and all co-operate in trying to provide the best possible service for mother and baby.

There were 1,060 notifications of infectious disease, 929 of these due to measles. There was a sharp rise in the number of cases of whooping cough (96) and 65 of these were notified in children unprotected by vaccination.

There was one case of food poisoning due to lack of care in dealing with tinned food in the home.

1963 has been a year of consolidation, and the environmental health continues to improve. There are still problems connected with the elderly and the handicapped, but much is being done by this Borough to assist these special groups.

The Meals on Wheels service organised by the Old People's Welfare Committee and the W.V.S. continues to operate. It is difficult to extend the service due to the problem of obtaining sufficient transport and drivers. The service is undoubtedly a most important one for the house-bound person.

I would like to thank the Chairman and the Health Committee members for their interest in the work of the department. As in the past, other departments have been generous in their support. The staff of the health department has again undertaken willingly the tasks set it. They work as a team and are to be congratulated on the manner the various programmes have been dealt with.

I remain,

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ALEXANDER DONALDSON,
Medical Officer of Health.

TOBACCO AND HEALTH EDUCATION

The Royal College of Physicians reported on Smoking in 1962. This was followed in United States by a report by the Surgeon General of the Public Health Service, who set up an Advisory Committee to investigate smoking and health.

The findings in the reports were in complete agreement. They indicated that cigarette smoking was closely associated with the following conditions—lung cancer, cancer of the larynx, chronic bronchitis and pulmonary conditions in general, heart disease with special emphasis on coronary thrombosis.

In spite of the implications of the reports being widely publicised, there has been very little change in the habits of the public as far as cigarette smoking is concerned. There was a temporary decrease in the number of cigarettes bought and an increase in the sale of pipes and pipe tobacco, then a steady rise in the consumption of cigarettes.

I feel that there is one main reason for this. It is the advertising power which seems to be a prerogative of the tobacco companies. The propaganda used by them is appealing, colourful, clever and very professional. It projects the cigarette image everywhere—on hoardings, in the papers, in periodicals, on the cinema screen and on radio and television. It is an image which is constantly recurring and unconsciously being imprinted indelibly on the mind of the populace.

Is there a counter-blast to this propaganda? Well, hardly a counter-blast that amounts to any real opposition. A whisper, perhaps, in that a few lectures are given to school children. A few anti-smoking posters are displayed in schools, in clinics and on municipal notice boards. This represents “token opposition”.

It is not possible to buy space or time on radio or television and use it for anti-smoking propaganda. No reasons are given for this ban, and one must only assume that there is some strong opposition to it!

Until the press, the cinema, radio and television are obliged to give space, film time and viewing time to anti-smoking campaigns it is futile expecting a reversal of the smoking habits of the public.

Furthermore, such propaganda must be prepared and produced by professionals. Education of the public cannot hope to be successful when carried out by amateur script-writers, especially when the amateurs have their hands tied and their voices gagged.

It is imperative that increased propaganda of the highest standard be used for all health problems on every media if an impact is to be made on the public. At least equal opportunity should be given to voice both sides of the question. Given ideal opportunities, the task of the health educationalist is a monumental one, but under the present conditions it is a virtual impossibility.

The Minister of Health asks for the fullest information regarding smoking and its hazards to be widely disseminated, but the methods that can be used are extremely limited.

He is asking us to fight a most important battle but says, in fact, I cannot give you modern, up-to-date weapons; do your best with your bows and arrows!

RENT ARREARS AND EVICTION

The majority of tenants pay their rent regularly and would be justifiably affronted if it were suggested that they did not do so.

There are tenants who are invariably one or two weeks in arrears, usually for no other reason than they were out when the rent man called and were too lazy to make the trip to the rent office. There are tenants who have inadvertently spent the rent money on something else. The rent officials know these tenants and know that the arrears will be paid without a great deal of trouble. Rent arrears can occur because of sickness, loss of work, considerable fall in income or an unforeseen rise in expenditure. If tenants with such problems get in touch with the Borough Treasurer, adjustments can be made and over a period the matter will be rectified. As a rule this type of tenant gives very little trouble.

There is, however, the type of family where for one reason or another the payment of rent presents a constant crisis—arrears can quickly mount up £10, £20—£30 due to unfulfilled promises to pay. The result is court action and an application for possession of the house. How can this

happen? A wife can get into debt unknown to her husband and use the rent money to tide her over. This can lead to large arrears mounting up unknown to the husband. One way of dealing with this is to make the husband responsible for payment of the rent. Housekeeping money and rent money has been used for Bingo sessions. It can be due to poor housekeeping—there is sufficient money coming in but it is not to hand when the rent is due. Sometimes a husband will gamble or drink his pay, including the housekeeping money. The causes are well known to most social workers. Often there is an adequate income and the children are well clothed and well fed, yet there is this insecurity hanging over the family.

This is a problem which affects health visitors, welfare officers, children's visitors and N.S.P.C.C. officers, causing hours to be spent in trying to avoid eviction of the family.

New legislation under the Children and Young Persons' Act allows for wider scope in dealing with such cases. While it may be successful, this will almost certainly mean increased staffs, many of whom will be "other rent collectors". This seems a waste of man-power.

It is relatively easy for a Housing Authority to obtain possession of a house by application to the Courts. I cannot see why it should be any more difficult for the same Court to order rent to be paid, especially where children are involved.

When the officer responsible for the rent collection finds rent arrears of such proportions that he is worried about getting full payment, it should be possible for him to apply to the Magistrates' Court for an order which will allow a sum equivalent to the rent plus arrears to be deducted from a man's

- (a) Weekly wages.
- (b) National Health Insurance.
- (c) Unemployment Benefit.
- (d) National Assistance.

Such a system (rather like P.A.Y.E.) would require no great financial outlay, no increase in visiting staff and the offenders would have no option but to accept depleted pay packets, which would ensure a roof over the heads of their families.

SMOKE CONTROL

In 1959 a report was submitted to the Health Committee recommending that Seaton Sluice should become a Smoke Control Area. The Committee decided to take no action. In 1962/63 a further survey and report was made and submitted to the Health Committee. In view of the fact that insufficient supplies of suitable smokeless fuels were available the Committee was advised by its officials to postpone their decision indefinitely. In spite of all that has been said in favour of smoke control areas this decision may prove to be a wise one and, in the long run, the correct one.

In the years 1956-1958 Health Departments were exhorted by government circles to push ahead as quickly as possible to establish smoke control areas. Guarantees were given that adequate supplies of smokeless fuel would be available. In 1960 doubts were beginning to be cast about the availability of such supplies for the North, and by 1963 it was evident that suitable supplies of soft coke for burning on open fires ("approved appliances") were not available. Great difficulties were being experienced in obtaining even branded smokeless fuels. The National Coal Board informed the country that they had a winner in their smokeless fuel, but the amount that could be produced was infinitesimal compared with the requirements.

Blyth Council had installed in its post-war houses, from 1950 onwards, approved appliances. These should have been perfectly satisfactory in event of Smoke Control Areas being confirmed. Now they are useless—there is no suitable fuel for them.

Should the Council be recommended to replace these appliances with ones which are capable of burning hard coke?

Let us compare the costs of the cheaper types of solid fuel appliances:—

	£	s.	d.	
1. Parkray open fire	2	11	3	approximately
Parkray open fire with Back Boiler	13	0	0	
2. Parkray Stove	24	17	6	
Parkray Stove with Back Boiler ...	32	17	6	

These prices do not include installation.

It is going to cost, therefore, between £24 and £32 to replace existing appliances, six-tenths of which would have to be borne by the rates unless rents were increased. This would cost over £100,000 for appliances alone for 4,500 Council houses.

What benefits would be gained if this were achieved?

1. The black smoke menace would be eliminated almost entirely.
2. The amount of sun-light would be increased.
3. There would be increased cleanliness in clothing and buildings, etc.
4. Fuel efficiency would be increased.
5. The sulphurous gases from smokeless fuel would disperse more freely in a clear atmosphere.

These are wonderful advantages which concern the health, wealth and cleanliness of the community.

It is difficult to think of any disadvantages, but,

1. Tradition dies hard, especially in a mining area where the miners receive concessionary coal.
2. Is there any guarantee that even supplies of hard coke will be maintained?
3. In view of this doubt is there justification for recommending the expenditure of very large sums of public money to very little purpose?

I would prefer to see coal being utilised to produce more electricity and gas so that supplies would be sufficient to meet all the demands of the public without cuts or load shedding and giving the correct voltage.

Instead of advising solid smokeless fuel appliances I would prefer to see:—

- (a) Central Heating by gas or electricity.
- (b) The encouragement of heat preservation by means of modern insulation and especially double glazing.
- (c) Consideration given to Solar heating.

These are the methods of the future, immediate and distant. These are methods which will produce a very much purer atmosphere than any of the smokeless fuels can ever hope to do.

DISABLED PERSONS, 1963

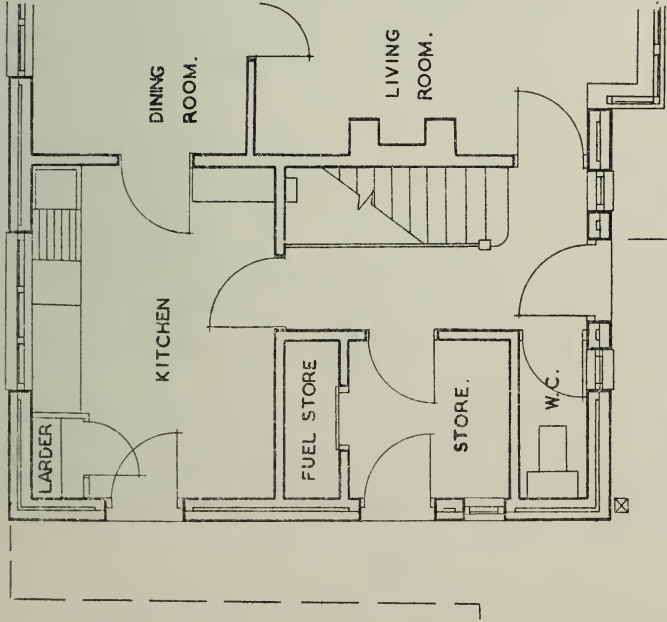
Two large families, each having a member who was seriously disabled and confined to a wheelchair, were rehoused. It was fortunate that two families were vacating a pair of semi-detached houses, each having four bedrooms and reasonable space for adaptation of the ground floor.

The ground floor accommodation consisted of a large living room with doors opening into a smaller dining room, which in turn had access into a large working kitchen. The dining room became the patient's bedroom, and the hall, store room and existing water-closet were remodelled by Mr. D. W. Foster, Borough Engineer, as shown on the plans (p. 11). The new bathroom contained the original water-closet and a shower-cabinet with seat. The shower was on a flexy-arm with water temperature control. Wall supports were fitted in the shower and besides the water closet, and thus allowed the wheelchair to be brought as near as possible so that the patient could use the appliance with the minimum of help. The shower-cabinet walls were tiled to a height of four feet and the bathroom door was of a sliding type.

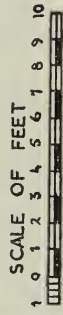
The effect on the members of each family was most heartening. They were all pleased that the patients had ground floor facilities which considerably reduced the nursing assistance required.

The Housing Committee agreed in principle that all aged persons' bungalows and single persons' dwellings should be fitted with shower-cabinets in future, in place of baths.

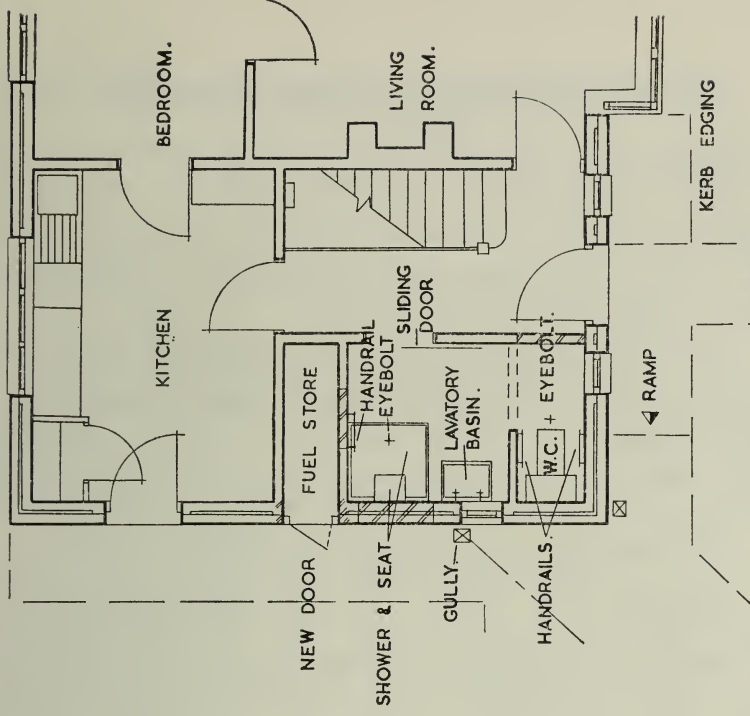
CONVERSION OF 88 HALLSIDE ROAD FOR DISABLED PERSONS



EXISTING



PLAN



PROPOSED

PLAN.

FLUORIDATION OF WATER SUPPLIES

The controversy over this question is a vexed one, and yet it need not be if it is studied factually.

The questions that require to be answered are:—

1. Is the fluoridation of water supplies a satisfactory method of preventing dental decay?

Yes. It has been proved that populations who live in areas with water supplies that have a material content of 1 part/million or more of fluorides have less dental caries. Where fluorides have been added to water to raise the content to 1 part/million, the children who have been receiving such a supply **from birth** have less dental caries.

2. Is it safe for both children and adults?

Yes. In areas where fluorides occur naturally in concentration greater than 1 part per million, no ill-effects have been noticed either in childhood or in adult life. Two towns in the North-East are examples of this—South Shields and Hartlepoons, where, for generations, people have been using water with high concentrations of fluorides, with no effect on their health.

3. Why should this method be used instead of providing tablets or solutions to be given to children individually?

It is important that fluoride should be given from birth to be most effective. Human nature being what it is, only a very small percentage of parents would be prepared to carry out such methods. The parents who would do so are the ones who normally would make an effort to ensure that their children brushed their teeth regularly, etc., and these comprise a very small percentage of the whole population.

4. The British Dental Association, British Medical Association and The Research Council are unanimous in their approval of fluoridation of water supplies. These organisations have nothing to gain by supporting fluoridation; in fact, if they are wrong, they have everything to lose as far as their reputations are concerned. I consider these bodies to be completely unbiased and the best-informed on the subject.

By opposing the artificial fluoridation of water supplies, children are being denied the opportunity of receiving protection against dental decay which is already being enjoyed in towns like South Shields and Hartlepoons.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA 1963

<i>Area</i> —No Change	<i>Acreage</i> —6,487
<i>Population</i> —(Registrar-General's Estimate) ...	36,440
<i>Rate Value</i> —(1st April, 1963)	£937,573
<i>Product of a Penny Rate</i>	£3,634
<i>Total Number of Dwellinghouses in Borough</i> — (1st April, 1963)	11,426

Extract from Vital Statistics

Comparability Factor—Births 0.98 Deaths 1.27

	1963	1962
Total Live Births	660	629
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (uncorrected)	18.1	17.2
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population (standardised)	17.7	17.2
Still Births	10	12
Still Birth Rate per 1,000 live & still births	14.9	18.7
Total live and still births	670	641
Infant Deaths	10	15
Neo-Natal Deaths (under one month) ...	9	10
Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births	15.1	23.8
Legitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Legiti- mate live births	14.4	20.0
Illegitimate Infant Deaths per 1,000 Illegi- timate live births	28.5	Nil
Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 live births ...	13.6	15.9
Early Neo-Natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under one week per 1,000 live births	13.6	9.5
No. of Deaths under one week	9	6.0
Peri-Natal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under one week per 1,000 live and still births)	28.3	28
Illegitimate Live Births	35	29
Illegitimate live births % of total live births	5.3	4.6
Maternal Deaths	Nil	Nil
Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births	Nil	Nil
Total Deaths	413	361
Crude death rate per 1,000 home population	11.3	9.9
Standardised death rate per 1,000 home population	14.3	12.6
Tuberculosis death rate per 1,000 home population	0.02	0.08

			Live Births		Still Births		Infant Deaths Under 4 Weeks		Infant Deaths Under 1 Week	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Total	...	...	325	335	3	7	4	5	4	5
Legitimate	...	...	309	316	3	7	4	5	4	5
Illegitimate	...	...	16	19	—	—	—	—	—	—

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
No of live births	638	585	624	610	608	712	627	602	629	660
No. of deaths	354	357	370	348	365	371	381	341	361	413
Excess of births over deaths	284	228	254	262	243	341	246	261	268	247

Causes of Death, 1963

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
010	Tuberculous Meningitis	1	—	1
024	Tabes Dorsalis	1	—	1
092	Acute Infectious Hepatitis	1	—	1
147	Malignant Neoplasm of Hypopharynx ...	—	1	1
150	" " " Oesophagus	2	—	2
151	" " " Stomach	9	3	12
153	" " " Large Intestine ...	3	8	11
154	" " " Rectum	1	1	2
155.1	" " " Gall Bladder	1	1	2
156	" " " Liver	1	—	1
162	" " " Bronchus and Lung	26	1	27
170	" " " Breast	—	6	6
171	" " " Cervix Uteri	—	4	4
172	" " " Corpus Uteri	—	1	1
175	" " " Ovary	—	5	5
176	" " " Vulva	—	1	1
177	" " " Prostate	4	—	4
180	" " " Kidney	1	—	1
181	" " " Bladder	1	—	1
199	" " " Unspecified	—	2	2
200	Lymphosarcoma	1	—	1
201	Hodgkins Disease	1	—	1
202.1	Reticulosis	1	—	1
203	Multiple Myelomatosis	1	1	2
204	Chronic Lymphatic Leukaemia	2	—	2
204.3	Acute Leukaemia	—	1	1
241	Asthma	1	1	2
260	Diabetes Mellitus	—	1	1
290	Pernicious Anaemia	—	1	1
330	Sub Arachnoid Haemorrhage	2	2	4
331	Cerebral Haemorrhage	9	12	21
332	Cerebral Embolism or Thrombosis ...	11	20	31
334	Hypertensive Encephalopathy	—	1	1
350	Paralysis Agitans	—	1	1
352	Quadriplegia	1	—	1
353.2	Status Epilepticus	—	1	1
401.1	Rheumatic Endocarditis	—	1	1
411	Aortic Stenosis (Rheum)	2	1	3
420	Arteriosclerosis	1	—	1
420.1	Coronary Artery Disease	30	36	66
421.4	Valvular Disease of Heart	—	1	1
422	Cardio Vascular Degeneration	5	8	13
422.2	Cardio Vascular Degeneration with Senility	5	8	13
431	Acute Myocarditis	1	1	2

Causes of Death, 1963—continued

Code No.	International Classification	Male	Female	Total
433.1	Auricular Fibrillation	—	1	1
434.1	Congestive Heart Failure	19	16	35
434.2	Left Ventricular Failure	3	10	13
434.4	Cor Pulmone	7	—	7
453.1	Thrombo Angiitis Obliterans	1	—	1
454	Arterial Embolism	1	—	1
465	Pulmonary Embolism	1	2	3
480	Influenza with Pneumonia	—	1	1
481	Influenza	1	1	2
490	Lobar Pneumonia	2	—	2
491	Broncho Pneumonia	10	16	26
500	Acute Bronchitis	1	1	2
502	Chronic Bronchitis	4	4	8
522	Hypostatic Pneumonia	2	—	2
527	Post Operative Atelectasis	1	—	1
527.1	Emphysema	1	—	1
540	Gastric Ulcer	1	—	1
561	Strangulated Inguinal Hernia	1	—	1
561.1	Strangulated Femoral Hernia	1	—	1
561.5	Strangulated Hernia with Peritonitis	—	1	1
570.2	Mesenteric Thrombosis	1	—	1
572	Ulcerative Colitis	—	1	1
576	Peritonitis	1	1	2
578	Perforated Bowel with Peritonitis	—	1	1
585	Acute Cholecystitis	—	1	1
590	Acute Nephritis	—	1	1
592	Chronic Nephritis	1	—	1
593	Nephritis Unspecified	—	1	1
715	Decubitus Ulcers	1	—	1
752	Congenital Hydrocephalus	1	—	1
754	Congenital Heart Disease	1	—	1
760	Intracranial Birth Injury	1	—	1
762.5	Atelectasis with Prematurity	—	1	1
764	Diarrhoea of Newborn	1	—	1
769.5	Foetal Anoxia with Prematurity	—	1	1
770	Haemolytic Disease of Newborn	—	1	1
775	Cardiac Failure with Prematurity	1	—	1
776	Prematurity	—	2	2
784.5	Haematemesis	1	—	1
792	Uraemia	3	—	3
794	Senility	—	2	2
E 815	Motor Accident to Rider of Motorecycle in Collision	1	—	1
E 890	Accidental Coal Gas Poisoning	—	3	3
E 901	Fall from Ladder	—	1	1
E 903	Fall on same level	—	3	3
E 910	Fall of Earth	1	—	1
E 912	Accident caused by Machinery	1	—	1
E 921	Suffocation from inhalation of food	—	1	1
E 925	Accidental Suffocation	1	—	1
E 929	Accidental Drowning	1	—	1
E 972	Suicide by Coal Gas Poisoning	2	—	2
E 974	Suicide by Hanging	1	—	1
N 801	Fracture Base of Skull	1	—	1
N 803	Fracture of Skull Unqualified	—	1	1
N 805	Fracture of Cervical Vertebrae	—	1	1
		205	208	413
	Deaths over 65 years of age	114	143	257
	Deaths 1-4 years inclusive	1	1	2

Infant Deaths and Infant Mortality Rates for the Ten Years 1954-1963

	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
Infant Deaths	11	21	11	12	23	16	10	13	15	10
Infant Mortality Rates	17.2	35.8	17.6	19.5	37.8	22.4	15.9	21.5	23.8	15.1

Causes of Infant Deaths

No.	Cause	Sex	Where Death Occurred	Age	Avoidable or Not
1	Congenital Heart Disease ...	M	Hospital	5 Days	Not
2	Prematurity	F	Hospital	12 Hours	Not
3	Gastro-Enteritis	M	Home	3 Months	Yes
4	Atelectasis with Prematurity	F	Hospital	21 Hours	Not
5	Haemolytic Dis. of Newborn	F	Hospital	13 Hours	?
6	Hydrocephalus	M	Home	4 Hours	Not
7	Intraeranian Haemorrhage ...	M	Hospital	7 Hours	Not
8	Prematurity with Placenta Prev	M	Hospital	4 Hours	Not
9	Prematurity with Maternal Tox.	F	Hospital	2 Days	Not
10	Prematurity	F	Hospital	1 Day	Not

Year	Still Births	Deaths under 1 week	Perinatal Deaths (Still Births and Deaths under 1 wk.)	Deaths under 1 month	Deaths under 1 year
1963	10	9	20	9	10
1962	12	6	18	10	15
1961	8	9	17	11	13
1960	18	4	22	6	10
1959	13	9	22	12	16
1958	15	16	31	19	23
1957	19	4	23	7	12
1956	16	10	26	10	11
1955	19	14	33	15	21

Year	Total Live Births	No. Deaths Under 1 Year	I.M.R.	No. Deaths Under 1 Month	N.N.M.R.	No. Deaths Under 1 Week	Stillbirths	CAUSES OF DEATH														
								Congenital			Birth Trauma			Prematurity			Respiratory			Others		
								Under 1 Yr.	Under 1 Mth.	Under 1 Wk.	Under 1 Yr.	Under 1 Mth.	Under 1 Wk.	Under 1 Yr.	Under 1 Mth.	Under 1 Wk.	Under 1 Yr.	Under 1 Mth.	Under 1 Wk.	Under 1 Yr.	Under 1 Mth.	Under 1 Wk.
1963	660	10	15.1	9	13.6	9	10	3	3	3	1	1	1	4	4	4	1	1	1	1	—	—
1962	629	15	23.8	10	15.9	6	12	6	4	1	3	3	3	2	1	1	2	1	1	2	1	—
1961	602	13	21.5	11	18.2	9	8	3	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	3	1	—	—	2	2	1
1960	627	10	15.9	6	9.5	4	18	3	1	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	3	1	—	1	1	—
1959	712	16	22.4	12	16.8	9	13	3	3	2	1	—	—	4	4	3	6	4	3	2	1	1
1958	608	23	37.8	19	31.2	16	15	5	4	3	3	3	3	7	7	7	4	3	3	4	2	—
1957	610	12	19.5	7	14.6	4	19	4	2	1	1	1	1	3	3	2	1	—	—	3	1	—
1956	624	11	17.6	10	16.0	10	16	2	2	2	3	3	3	4	4	4	1	—	—	1	1	1
1955	585	21	35.8	15	25.6	14	19	5	5	4	1	1	1	8	8	8	3	1	1	4	—	—

Deaths 1954-1963 (1-4 years)

Year	1 yr.	2 yrs.	3 yrs.	4 yrs.	Total
1954	4	—	—	1	5
1955	—	—	1	—	1
1956	—	—	—	—	—
1957	—	—	—	—	—
1958	—	—	—	—	—
1959	—	—	—	1	1
1960	—	—	—	—	—
1961	—	—	—	—	—
1962	1	—	1	2	4
1963	1	—	1	—	2

Monthly Deaths, 1963

	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	Total
Number of Deaths each month	54	25	46	39	27	36	24	23	28	29	41	36	413

TUBERCULOSIS, 1963

There were 13 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 2 cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis notified during the year. This is the lowest notification figure ever recorded in Blyth. In 1958, following the Mass X-Ray survey of the town in 1956, fourteen cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified. Since then the figure has risen to 32, but the trend has been progressively downward. While this does not mean the final eradication of the disease in the immediate future, it is a sign that all the efforts of the last eight years are having an effect.

Twelve of the notified cases were male and once more it has been demonstrated that the age group is maintaining its upward trend, as eleven were over 38 years of age. This means that, more than ever, contact tracing in the upper age groups is all important, and examination of sputum from "chronic chests" is essential.

Blyth was once a tuberculosis black-spot, but exceptional progress has been made in diagnosis and treatment. Co-operation with the Sanatorium, Chest Clinic and general practitioners has been excellent, and this has been an important factor in fighting the disease.

There was one death from tuberculosis in 1963—from tuberculosis meningitis (male 43 years).

TUBERCULOSIS, 1963

Age Groups	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females	Males	Females
0-5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
6-10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
11-15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
16-20	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
21-25	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
26-30	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
31-35	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
36-40	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
41-45	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
46-50	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
51-55	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
56-60	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
61-65	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 +	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	12	1	1	1	—	—	1	—
Grand Totals	13		2		—		1	

Tuberculosis Register, 31st December, 1963

	MALES		FEMALES		TOTALS Pulm. and Non- Pulm.
	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	Pulm.	Non-Pulm.	
Number of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1962	140	14	139	35	328
Number of cases remaining on the Register on 31st December, 1963	138	14	114	32	298

TUBERCULOSIS, 1954-1963

Year			All forms of Tuberculosis notifications per year	Number of T.B. Deaths per year	Death Rate per 1,000 Population
1954	...	...	49	8	0.23
1955	...	...	72	6	0.17
1956	...	...	52	7	0.20
1957	...	...	44	7	0.20
1958	...	...	19	3	0.08
1959	...	...	40	4	0.11
1960	...	...	27	2	0.06
1961	...	...	33	2	0.06
1962	...	...	28	3	0.08
1963	...	...	15	1	0.02

Pulmonary Tuberculosis Case Rate per 1,000 Population

1954	1955	1956	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
13.9	15.2	14.7	15.2	13.3	11.7	10.8	10.2	7.6	6.9

INFECTIOUS DISEASE, 1963

There were 1,060 notifications of infectious disease during 1963. There were no notifications of poliomyelitis or diphtheria.

MEASLES

There were 929 cases of measles notified during the year. The usual biennial epidemic.

WHOOPING COUGH

There were 96 cases of whooping cough notified during 1963. This is the largest figure since 1958. In 65 cases there was no record of protective immunisation against the disease.

The remainder (31) had received protection as follows:—

	<i>Last Inoculation</i>	<i>No.</i>
Combined Diphtheria/Pertussis Vaccine	1950	1
	1954	1
	1956	2
	1957	3
	1958	2
	1959	5
	1960	2
Triple Vaccine (Diphtheria/Pertussis/ Tetanus)	1957	1
	1958	3
	1959	3
	1960	4
	1961	2
	1962	2
	} Between 0.2 yrs. of age.	

8 babies under 1 year were unprotected.

4 babies of 1 year were unprotected.

27 children already protected had failed to have a boosting dose; 4 children protected were not due a boosting dose. There is no doubt of the importance of the booster dose 18-24 months after the initial course, and further doses every 3-4 years.

PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

There were 13 cases notified during the year. This disease is discussed elsewhere.

NON-PULMONARY TUBERCULOSIS

Two cases were notified during 1963. These were:—

- (a) T.B. epididymitis (male 30 years).
- (b) T.B. adenitis (female 44 years).

SCARLET FEVER, ERYSIPELAS AND DYSENTERY

Three cases of each disease were notified during 1963.

PNEUMONIA

Ten cases of primary pneumonia were notified.

FOOD POISONING

One case was notified. A tin of salmon spread had been opened and used by a family with no ill effects. The remainder was eaten by the patient two days later by which time it had produced a heavy infection of coagulase positive Staphylococci. It was felt that contamination had occurred in the house.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1963—Age Distribution

Disease	Under 1 year	1 year	2 years	3 years	4 years	5 years	6-10 years	11-15 years	16-25 years	26-35 years	36-45 years	46-55 years	56-65 years	Over 65 years	N.K.	Total
Measles	44	103	129	137	154	205	153	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	929
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	4	2	3	2	—	13
Non-Pulm. Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2
Whooping Cough ...	7	7	11	14	17	15	24	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	96
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	3
Pneumonia ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	1	3	—	10
Food Poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Dysentery ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3
Totals	52	110	141	151	171	221	179	4	3	4	11	3	4	6	—	1060

Infectious Disease—Age Distribution, 1963

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Diphtheria		Dysentery		Meningococcal Infection	
					Paralytic		Non-Paralytic									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified																
Total (all ages) ...	1	2	50	46	—	—	—	—	478	451	—	—	3	—	—	—
Final numbers after correction :																
Under 1 year ...	—	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	22	23	—	—	—	—	—	—
1 year ...	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	—	69	35	—	—	—	—	—	—
2 years ...	—	1	7	4	—	—	—	—	80	66	—	—	—	—	—	—
3 " ...	—	—	5	9	—	—	—	—	70	70	—	—	—	—	—	—
4 " ...	—	—	8	9	—	—	—	—	75	76	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-9 " ...	1	1	19	18	—	—	—	—	177	179	—	—	—	—	—	—
10-14 " ...	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
15-24 " ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25 and over ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	1	2	50	46	—	—	—	—	478	451	—	—	3	—	—	—
	Acute Pneumonia		Small-pox		Acute Encephalitis				Enteric or Typhoid Fever		Para-Typhoid Fever		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning	
					Infective		Post Infectious									
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Numbers originally notified :																
Total (all ages) ...	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
Final numbers after correction :																
Under 5 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-14 years ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15-44 " ...	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
45-64 " ...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over ...	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total (all ages) ...	7	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—
	Tuberculosis															
	Respiratory		Meninges		Other											
	M	F	M	F	M	F										
Numbers originally notified :																
Total (all ages) ...	10	3	—	—	1	1										
Final numbers after correction :																
Under 5 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
5-14 years ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
15-24 " ...	—	1	—	—	—	—										
25-44 " ...	3	2	—	—	1	1										
45-64 " ...	5	—	—	—	—	—										
65 and over ...	2	—	—	—	—	—										
Age unknown ...	—	—	—	—	—	—										
Total (all ages) ...	10	3	—	—	1	1										

CANCER DEATHS, 1963—Site and Age Distribution

SITE OF DISEASE	MALE						FEMALE							
	0-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	Total	0-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65	Total
Malignant Neoplasm of:														
Hypopharynx	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Oesophagus	—	—	—	2	3	3	9	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Stomach ...	—	—	1	—	2	1	3	—	—	—	2	1	—	3
Large Intestine	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Rectum ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Gall Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Liver	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchus and Lung	—	—	1	5	7	13	26	—	1	—	—	—	1	1
Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	6
Cervix Uteri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	4
Corpus Uteri	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Ovary	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5
Vulva	—	—	—	—	—	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Prostate	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Kidney	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	2
Bladder	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Unspecified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Lymphosarcoma	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Hodgkins Disease	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Reticulosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Multiple Myelomatosis	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Chronic Lymphatic Leukaemia	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Leukaemia	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Totals	1	—	2	8	17	27	55	—	1	1	7	8	19	36

Annual Returns for 10 years of Notified Cases of Infectious Diseases

Year	Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Pneumonia	Meningococcal Infection	Dysentery	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Tuberculosis (Pul.)	Tuberculosis (Other)	Whooping Cough	Measles	Para Typhoid Fever	Malaria	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	Ac. Poliomyelitis (Non-Paralytic)	Ac. Encephalitis (Infective)	Food Poisoning	Puerperal Pyrexia
1954	34	—	10	14	3	12	—	44	5	73	50	—	—	1	—	—	12	—
1955	11	—	11	24	12	108	—	69	10	65	853	—	—	3	—	—	8	2
1956	12	—	2	15	1	8	—	46	6	177	63	2	—	2	—	—	7	6
1957	11	—	7	9	—	203	—	36	8	56	859	—	—	2	—	—	2	1
1958	6	—	3	5	1	11	—	14	5	144	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
1959	14	—	7	10	—	12	—	32	8	6	886	—	1	—	—	—	4	1
1960	5	—	2	9	—	8	—	23	4	3	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1961	1	—	1	5	—	2	—	30	3	3	733	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1962	—	—	4	9	—	—	—	26	2	20	26	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
1963	3	—	3	10	—	3	—	13	2	96	929	—	—	—	—	—	1	—

CANCER DEATHS

Type All Causes	1963		1962		1961		1960		1959		1958		1957		1956	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
	55	36	46	41	38	42	50	31	44	39	37	19	55	26	42	27
	91		87		80		81		83		56		81		69	
Bronchogenic ...	26	1	25	6	10	4	19	4	16	3	11	1	20	1	13	1
Stomach ...	9	3	4	7	11	5	10	7	5	6	11	4	13	6	6	6
Intestine ...	4	9	—	—	7	5	6	3	11	13	3	4	5	2	7	6
Female Organs	—	17	—	16	—	18	—	9	—	12	—	7	—	10	—	8
Others ...	16	6	17	12	10	10	15	8	12	5	12	3	17	7	16	6

ANNUAL HEALTH REPORT, 1963

Statistics for the Borough for the Ten Years 1954-1963

Year	Popula- tion	Deaths	Death Rate	Live Births	Birth Rate	Infant Deaths	Infant Death Rate	Neo- Natal Death Rate
1954	34370	345	10.2	638	19.8	11	17.2	14.1
1955	34420	357	10.3	585	16.8	21	35.8	25.6
1956	34470	370	10.7	624	18.1	11	17.6	16.0
1957	34440	348	10.1	610	17.8	12	19.5	14.6
1958	34620	365	10.5	608	17.5	23	37.8	31.2
1959	34760	371	10.6	712	20.4	16	22.4	16.8
1960	35050	381	10.8	627	17.8	10	15.9	9.5
1961	35970	341	9.4	602	16.7	13	21.5	18.2
1962	36400	361	9.9	629	17.2	15	23.8	15.9
1963	36440	413	11.3	660	18.1	10	15.1	13.6

CHILD WELFARE CENTRE, WATERLOO ROAD, BLYTH

Monday.

Alternate Monday mornings—Poliomyelitis vaccination session.

Every Monday afternoon—ante natal talks.

Tuesday.

Every Tuesday morning and afternoon—Child Welfare Clinic.

Every Tuesday afternoon—Mothercraft talks for senior school children, including practical instruction.

Every alternate Tuesday afternoon—B.C. G. Clinic.

Wednesday.

Every Wednesday morning—Women's Advisory Clinic.

Every alternate Wednesday morning—Toddlers' Clinic.

Every Wednesday afternoon—Mothercraft classes for senior school children (double session).

Every first and third Wednesday afternoon—Chiropody Clinic.

Thursday.

Every Thursday afternoon—ante-natal Clinic.

Every Thursday afternoon—Relaxation Clinic.

Friday.

Every Friday morning—Toddlers' Clinic.

Every Friday afternoon—Child Welfare Clinic.

Every second Friday—B.C.G. Clinic.

Wellington House School Clinic.

Specialist Ophthalmic sessions Tuesdays and Fridays (Mornings).

Cowpen Child Welfare Clinic.

Tuesday.

Afternoons—ante-natal talks as required.

Every fourth Thursday morning—Toddlers' Clinic.

Every Thursday afternoon—Child Welfare Clinic.

One Friday morning each month—Toddlers' Clinic.

Newsham.

Every second Wednesday afternoon—Child Welfare Clinic.

Every fourth Thursday afternoon—Toddlers' Clinic.

PART II—ENVIRONMENTAL HYGIENE

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the following section dealing with Housing, Public Health and Food and Drugs. The principal housing activities of the Department centred on the survey of the Ridley Slum Clearance Areas, inspection of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Improvement Grants. Attention was paid to general public health matters ranging from nuisances, unsatisfactory drainage, watercourses, caravans, water supply, rodent destruction, infestation, to inspection of shops and factories. Routine inspections were also made of most of the food premises but time did not permit as much attention being paid to this work as one would have liked. Meat inspection, the introduction of the new Meat Inspection Regulations including meat marking and the question of the modernisation of the Slaughterhouse also took a considerable amount of time, and it is hoped that the more detailed information which follows will be of interest.

I remain,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. A. GILL, CERT. S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.
Senior Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

Housing occupied a great deal of time during the year, attention being given to such matters as proposed slum clearance, improvement grants, houses in multiple occupation, overcrowding, unsatisfactory housing conditions and individual unfit dwellings, a total of 1,417 inspections being made for this purpose. This figure does not include a total of 1,031 inspections and revisits in connection with complaints of minor defects which are primarily dealt with under the Public Health Acts.

Slum Clearance.

In accordance with Circular 2/60 the Council approved a two-year programme of slum clearance dealing principally with properties in the Percy, Freehold, Carlton Street area and two blocks in Disraeli and Gladstone Street, comprising some 170 dwellinghouses, subject to amendment after

completion of the surveys. At the date of preparation of this report official representations had been submitted and approved for the Ridley Nos. 1, 2 and 3 Clearance Areas and the Ridley No. 1 Compulsory Purchase Order, 1964, amounting to some 111 dwellinghouses and 21 other buildings.

Improvement Grants.

1963 was a year of better progress, a total of 21 applications being approved for grant (see pages 33 & 34) with 10 dwellings completed. It is worthy of note that most of the properties were owner/occupied, which again emphasises that the present grant scheme does not appeal to the owners of tenanted properties, undoubtedly in terms of inadequate return for capital outlay when other more profitable or safer investment opportunities are available.

Houses in Multiple Occupation.

In accordance with The Housing (Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation) Regulations, 1962, inspections were made of the undermentioned properties and an informal schedule of requirements forwarded to the Owners. As a result of this action the following progress was made:—

12 Wensleydale Terrace	Eight lettings reduced to three. Architect engaged to prepare plans for conversion to three self-contained flats.
14 Wensleydale Terrace	Five lettings, still in occupation. Owner obtaining estimates for conversion to self-contained flats.
63 Bondicar Terrace	Five lettings reduced to three. Plans approved for conversion to two self-contained flats.
Tower House	Five lettings. Closing in lieu of Demolition Order in accordance with Sec. 17(1) of the Housing Act, 1957.
382 Cowpen Road	Four lettings plus Owner/occupier. Representations submitted for Closing Orders in accordance with Sec. 18 of the Housing Act, 1957, in respect of the four tenancies.

Houses for Agricultural Population.

Certificates of Completion dated 20th March, 1963, were issued in respect of the two new houses for agricultural workers at Lysdon Farm, Seaton Delaval, for the Seaton Delaval Estate and for two houses at North Farm, Bebside, for the National Coal Board.

Removal of Aluminium Bungalows.

I am informed by the Housing Officer that 29 temporary prefabricated bungalows were vacated by the end of 1963.

Housing Act, 1957—Individual Unfit Houses.

27 houses were demolished during the year, being principally Cossor's Yard, Newsham; Sandy Island, Seaton Sluice and in the Crofton and Woods Street area.

The following Orders became operative during the year:—

	<i>Houses</i>	<i>Persons</i>	<i>Families</i>
Section 17—Demolition	—	—	—
Section 17—Closing in lieu of demolition	1	2	1
Section 18—Closing (Parts of buildings)	4	18	4
	5	20	5

Representations.

9 houses were represented as being unfit.

Undertakings.

The undermentioned dwellings were the subject of undertakings to repair and applications for determination of Orders.

<i>Address</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
31 Wellington Street	1	Completed. Order determined.
28 Disraeli Street	1	Completed. Order determined.
30 Disraeli Street	1	Completed. Order determined.
19 Winship Street	1	Completed. Order determined.
5 Claremont Terrace	1	Completed. Order determined.
9 Gladstone Street	1	Submitted. Refused.

Change of Use.

The undermentioned dwellings, subject of Closing Orders, were approved for change of use as under:—

<i>Address</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
9 Gladstone Street.	1	Planning permission issued to 31.12.65 as Warehouse.
3 Freehold Street	1	For use as Builder's Store-room subject to Planning Permission.

Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1958.

Dwellings to Replace Slums.—Certificates of Displacement were submitted to the Borough Treasurer, the latest position being:—

Year	Individual Unfit Houses			Clearance Orders			Totals		
	No.	Persons	Families	No.	Persons	Families	No.	Persons	Families
1955	6	21	6	—	—	—	6	21	6
1956	31	132	34	—	—	—	31	132	34
1957	35	128	36	4	5	4	39	133	40
1958	32	86	33	56	152	62	88	238	95
1959	39	116	39	11	35	12	50	151	51
1960	41	129	41	—	—	—	41	129	41
1961	28	79	29	—	—	—	28	79	29
1962	26	78	27	—	—	—	26	78	27
1963	7	13	7	—	—	—	7	13	7
	245	782	252	71	192	78	316	974	330

Rent Act, 1957.

The following table shows the action taken by the Department since the inception of the Act.

CERTIFICATES OF DISREPAIR

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	Totals
1. Application by tenants	43	46	12	6	2	Nil	Nil	109
2. Decision not to issue Certificates	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
3. Decision to issue:								
(a) some of the defects	23	28	9	4	Nil	Nil	Nil	64
(b) all defects ...	16	21	3	2	2	Nil	Nil	44
4. Undertakings by Landlords:								
(a) accepted ...	8	25	7	2	1	Nil	Nil	43
(b) refused ...	2	3	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	5
5. Certificates issued ...	24	28	5	3	1	Nil	Nil	61
6. Applications for Cancellation ...	2	10	10	1	Nil	3	1	27
7. Objections by Tenants ...	Nil	4	4	Nil	Nil	2	Nil	10
8. Cancellations Refused ...	Nil	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2
9. Certificates Cancelled ...	1	12	9	1	Nil	1	1	25

CERTIFICATES AS TO REMEDYING OF DEFECTS

10. Applications by Tenants for Certificates of non-compliance with Undertakings:	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	Totals
Issued (a) Whole ...	Nil	14	4	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	19
(b) Part ...	Nil	8	7	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	17
11. Applications by Landlords for Certificates of Compliance with Undertakings:								
(a) Issued ...	Nil	7	5	1	1	Nil	Nil	14
(b) Refused ...	Nil	1	1	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	2

HOUSES IN CLEARANCE AREAS AND UNFIT HOUSES ELSEWHERE

Return for the Year ended 31st December, 1963

		Houses Demolished	Displaced during year	
			Persons	Families
A. HOUSES DEMOLISHED :—				
In Clearance Areas.				
(1)	Houses unfit for human habitation	Nil	Nil	Nil
(2)	Houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(3)	Houses on land acquired under Sec. 43 (2), Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas :—				
(4)	As a result of formal or informal procedure under Sec. 17 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ...	27	1	1
(5)	Local Authority owned houses certified unfit by M.O.H.	Nil	Nil	Nil
(6)	Houses unfit for human habitation where action has been taken under local Acts ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
(7)	Unfit houses included in Unfitness Orders ...	Nil	Nil	Nil
A2				
Number of dwellings included above which were previously reported as closed :		18	Nil	Nil
B. UNFIT HOUSES CLOSED :—				
(8)	Under Sec. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957	3	6	5
(9)	Under Secs. 17 (3) and 26, Housing Act, 1957	Nil	Nil	Nil
(10)	Parts of buildings closed under Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957	4	10	5
C. UNFIT HOUSES MADE FIT AND HOUSES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE REMEDIED :—			By Owner	By Local Authority
(11)	After informal action by Local Authority		40	Nil
(12)	After formal notice under :			
(a)	P.H. Acts		43	Nil
(b)	Secs. 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957		Nil	Nil
(13)	Under Sec. 24, Housing Act, 1957		5	Nil
D. UNFIT HOUSES IN TEMPORARY USE (Housing Act, 1957) :—				
Position at end of Year		No. of houses	No. of separate dwellings contained in Col. 1.	
		(1)	(2)	
(14) Retained for temporary accommodation :—				
(a)	under Sec. 48	Nil	Nil	
(b)	under Sec. 17 (2)	Nil	Nil	
(c)	under Sec. 46	Nil	Nil	
(15)	Licensed for temporary occupation under Secs. 34 or 53	Nil	Nil	
E. PURCHASE OF HOUSES BY AGREEMENT :—				
(16)	Houses in Clearance Areas other than those included in confirmed Clearance Orders or Compulsory Purchase Orders, purchased in the year	Nil	Nil	

HOUSE CONSTRUCTION

	1962		1963	
	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Un-aided</i>	<i>With State Assistance</i>	<i>Un-aided</i>
HOUSES COMPLETED IN 1963 :				
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent Traditional—Contractor ...	63	Nil.	15	Nil.
Any other Housing Authority ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent—prefabricated—Contractor ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
HOUSES IN PROGRESS, 31/12/63 :				
Permanent Traditional—Direct Labour ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent Traditional—Contractor ...	15	Nil.	62	Nil.
Any other Housing Authority ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE :				
Traditional ...	Nil.	141	2	69
Permanent Pre-fabs (Farm Cottages) ...	Nil.	Nil.	2	Nil.
HOUSES APPROVED BY MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT ...				
... ..	62	Nil.	18	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED POST-WAR BY COUNCIL UP TO 31/12/63 :				
Permanent Traditional ...	2,349	2	2,364	2
Permanent Non-traditional ...	150	Nil.	150	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent B.I.S.F. ...	72	Nil.	72	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent Aluminium ...	59	Nil.	59	Nil.
Prefabricated—Permanent Tarran ...	44	Nil.	44	Nil.
HOUSES COMPLETED POST-WAR BY PRIVATE ENTERPRISE :				
Traditional ...	Nil.	845	2	914
Conversions ...	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.
Permanent Pre-fabs (Farm Cottages) ...	10	Nil.	12	Nil.
HOUSES PROVIDED UNDER THE HOUSING (TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION) ACT, 1944 :				
150	Nil.	150	Nil.	

Clearance, Demolition and Closing Orders, 1963.

	Houses Demolished	Displacements	
		Persons	Families
Clearance Areas ...	—	—	—
Individual Unfit Houses, Sec. 17 (1) Housing Act, 1957 ...	25	1	1
Secs. 16 (4), 17 (1) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957 ...	3	6	5
Parts of buildings closed, Sec. 18, Housing Act, 1957 ...	4	10	5
	32	17	11

The Total figures since 1945 are :—

	CLEARANCE AREAS		DEMOLITION ORDERS		CLOSING ORDERS		TOTAL	
	Houses Demol- ished	Persons Dis- placed	Houses	Persons Dis- placed	Houses	Persons Dis- placed	Houses	Persons Dis- placed
1945/50	399	1,875	55	432	1	4	455	2,311
1951	139	339	2	4	10	19	151	362
1952	67	220	76	298	8	36	151	554
1953	112	362	64	194	27	120	203	676
1954	—	—	33	103	37	131	70	234
1955	—	—	22	82	21	81	43	163
1956	109	—	4	22	23	119	136	141
1957	31	3	15	74	15	59	61	136
1958	2	184	3	26	23	51	28	261
1959	57	—	4	39	29	107	90	146
1960	10	—	10	92	34	105	54	197
1961	—	—	46	23	11	52	57	75
1962	—	—	28	13	20	68	48	81
1963	—	—	27	1	7	16	34	17
	926	2,983	389	1,403	266	968	1,581	5,354

No. of dwellings included above which were previously regarded as Closed (now demolished).

1961— 8
 1962—15
 1963—18

} 41

STANDARD GRANTS—SUMMARY

APPLICATIONS.

Year	Approved	Refused	Owner-Occupied Grant	Tenanted Grant
1959	1	—	£ s. d. 115 0 0	£ s. d. —
1960	12	1	1,240 0 0	115 0 0
1961	5	—	470 0 0	155 0 0
1962	9	—	1,200 0 0	145 0 0
1963	2	—	215 0 0	—
	29	1	£3,240 0 0	£415 0 0

COUNCIL OWNED.

1959	967
(For provision of wash-hand basins).	

COMPLETIONS.

Year	Owner-Occupied		Tenanted		Fixed Bath or Showers	Wash-Basins	Hot Water Supplies	Water Closets	Food Storage Facilities
	No.	Grant	No.	Grant					
1960	6	£ s. d. 544 15 8	—	£ s. d. —	3	3	3	5	4
1961	9	1,021 8 9	1	98 5 7	8	9	7	9	7
1962	—	—	1	113 13 8	1	1	1	1	—
1963	6	755 10 10	—	—	6	6	5	6	2
	21	2,321 15 3	2	211 19 3	18	19	16	21	13

DISCRETIONARY GRANTS—SUMMARY

APPLICATIONS

Year	Applications		Owner-Occupied Grant	Tenanted Grant	Completions		
	Approved	Refused			Owner-Occupied	Grant	Tenanted Grant
1955	19	5	£ s. d. 2,641 0 0	£ s. d. 155 0 0	1	£ s. d. 120 0 0	£ s. d. — — —
1956	9	—	1,384 0 0	— — —	7	1,006 0 0	— — —
1957	186	—	334 0 0	30,204 0 0	—	— — —	1 — —
1958	13	1	684 0 0	3,220 0 0	3	723 0 0	5 — —
1959	8	1	656 0 0	437 0 0	2	220 0 0	190 — —
1960	5	1	953 0 0	NIL	5	855 0 0	2 — —
1961	9	3	1,322 0 0	641 0 0	3	482 0 0	1 — —
1962	3	—	592 0 0	NIL	1	229 0 0	— — —
1963	17	—	3,171 0 0	1,717 0 0	4	909 0 0	— — —
	269	11	11,737 0 0	36,434 0 0	26	4,544 0 0	199 — —
	Totals:		£ s. d. 11,737 0 0		No.	£ s. d.	
			36,434 0 0		26	4,544 0 0	
			£48,171 0 0		199	33,922 0 0	
					225	£38,466 0 0	

CONVERSIONS

Year	Applics. Approved	No. of Dwellings	Owner-Occupied Grant	Tenanted Grant	Completions		
					Owner-Occupied	Grant	Tenanted Grant
1959	2	4	£ s. d. — — —	£ s. d. 634 0 0	—	£ s. d. — — —	£ s. d. — — —
1960	1	1	281 0 0	— — —	—	— — —	— — —
1961	3	3	290 0 0	447 0 0	1	281 0 0	2 — —
1962	1	1	297 0 0	— — —	1	297 0 0	2 — —
1963	2	2	159 0 0	196 0 0	—	— — —	— — —
	9	11	1,027 0 0	1,277 0 0	2	578 0 0	4 — —
					No.	£ s. d.	
					2	578 0 0	
					4	634 0 0	
					6	1,212 0 0	

PUBLIC HEALTH

Part II—Sanitation and Buildings

DRAINAGE, REFUSE AND VERMINOUS PREMISES.

The undermentioned free services were carried out during the year:—

Cleansing of choked drains	... ..	67
Removal of unwanted household effects (with the co-operation of the Borough Engineer's Department)	... ..	1,007
No. of houses treated for insect pests		381

Complaints as to insect pests varied from cockroaches, wood lice, red spiders, ants to flies, and the majority of these were dealt with by spraying with a proprietary insecticide, more persistent infestations being dealt with by means of fumigation.

Samples of water submitted for chemical analyses in relation to cellar and sub-floor flooding revealed in one instance the ingress of tidal water and in the other the cause was found to be a remote leaking water service pipe.

BUILDING BYELAWS AND SANITATION.

Supervision of new construction and drainage is carried out by the Building Inspector under the supervision of the Borough Engineer, but a monthly joint examination of deposited plans is carried out so that the Health Department may be aware of any proposals affecting other legislation such as Factories, Food and Drugs, Shops, Housing or Clean Air Acts and Regulations. This mutual co-operation is of advantage to the developers in that facilities required by legislation referred to above can be incorporated whilst construction is in progress.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

These were all maintained in a most satisfactory condition and no complaints were received.

LICENSED PREMISES.

Visits were made during the year and conditions were mainly satisfactory.

Part III—Nuisances

1,640 visits were made as a result of complaints or general survey work under the Act.

SPOILBANKS.

General observations revealed no cause for complaint during the year.

COAL DISPOSAL POINTS.

The deposit of open-cast coal continues to diminish and I am indebted to the Regional Open-Cast Executive for the following figures of stockpiling:—

	December, 1962	December, 1963
	Tons	Tons
Bebside Disposal Point ...	430,394	289,528

Part IV—Water Supply

The water supply to the Borough is entirely by mains supply by the Newcastle and Gateshead Water Company to whom I am indebted for the following consumption figures:—

<i>Source of Supply</i>	<i>Gallons</i>	
Newcastle & Gateshead Water Co.	411,877,000	} 418,275,000
Tynemouth Water Board Department ...	3,392,000	
National Coal Board (Hepscott)		
Discontinued 31.1.63	3,006,000	

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSES.

Of the 42 samples taken, none proved unsatisfactory. Three samples classed as “suspicious” proved to be satisfactory after the follow-up tests. A series of test samples were taken at the various water points on the Links and Foreshore adjacent to chalets and service buildings, and samples were taken from the various caravan sites and also from the drinking fountain in Ridley Park with entirely satisfactory results.

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS.

One sample of drinking water taken in conjunction with test samples for sub-floor proved satisfactory.

Part V—Prevention, Treatment and Notification of Infectious Diseases

60 visits and investigations were made primarily in connection with contacts of tuberculosis notifications.

Part VI—Mortuaries and Post-Mortem Rooms

The mortuary was used on 47 occasions, details being:—

<i>Authority</i>	<i>Bodies</i>	<i>Post-Mortems</i>
Borough of Blyth	37	34
Bedlington U.D. Council	8	6
River Blyth Port Health Authority ...	2	2

As before, Mr. Wade acted as part-time mortuary attendant.

WATERCOURSES.

Tynedale Drive.

Two chemical analyses of the Tynedale Watercourse showed a continuing diminution in the level of acidity, although the water is still extremely acid.

Kitty Brewster.

This water has shown continuing improvement since 1961 and is now free from acidity.

ANALYSES OF WATER

1961/2/3

Chemical

1961

1962

Water from open watercourse, Tynedale Burn

Sample 1/CW/61

Sample 2/CW/62

Acidity to Methyl Orange as H ₂ SO ₄	1,421 Parts per million	3,210 Parts per million
Sulphates as SO ₃	7,786 " " "	6,826 " " "
Dissolved oxygen	None	2.5 " " "
pH value	2.3	2.8

REPORT

This sample of water is highly acid with sulphuric acid, and it would be wise, therefore to prevent children from playing about with the water.

This water is detrimental to fish-life and should not be allowed into a watercourse.

REPORT

This sample of water is very highly acid with sulphuric acid — more than twice the acidity of the sample examined in March of last year (1/CW/61). The water would be lethal to fish life and in its present condition must not be allowed access to a watercourse.

Water from Kitty Brewster Watercourse before
joining Tynedale Burn

Sample 2/CW/61

Sample 3/CW/62

Acidity to Methyl Orange as H ₂ SO ₄	118 Parts per million	None
Sulphates as SO ₃	1,749 " " "	1,921 Parts per million
Dissolved oxygen	None	None
pH value	2.8	4.7

REPORT

This sample of water is less acid than the 1C sample, but it is nevertheless distinctly acid and children should not be allowed access to it.

This water is detrimental to fish-life and should not be allowed into a watercourse.

REPORT

This sample of water is free from acidity when methyl orange is used as the indicator, and it is therefore in better condition than the samples examined in March, 1961. (2/CW/61).

W. GORDON CAREY.

1963

1963

	SAMPLE 2/CW/63				SAMPLE 3/CW/63			
Acidity to Methyl Orange expressed as H ₂ SO ₄ ...	1,049	Parts	per	million	715.4	Parts	per	million
Sulphates as SO ₃ ...	2,679	"	"	"	3,845	"	"	"
Dissolved oxygen ...	0.3	"	"	"	None			
pH value	2.5	"	"	"	2.8	"	"	"

REPORT

Although this sample is very highly acid it is much less so than the corresponding sample (2/CW/62) submitted in November, 1962, and slightly lower than the one submitted in March, 1961 (1/CW/61). The sulphate content has also shown a progressive decrease.

The virtual absence of dissolved oxygen indicates that the water would be lethal to fish.

REPORT

This water is still extremely acid, although somewhat less so than the sample marked 2/CW/63, examined on 23rd February last (Lab. Ref. 354/213). Dissolved oxygen is absent.

This watercourse would be lethal to fish.

SAMPLE 1/CW/63

Alkalinity to Methyl Orange expressed as CaCO ₃ ...	10	Parts	per	million
Sulphates as SO ₃ ...	812	"	"	"
Dissolved Oxygen ...	12.0	"	"	"
pH value	7.1	"	"	"

REPORT

This sample of water is free from acidity and contains sufficient dissolved oxygen to support fish life. It is in a better condition than the sample (3/CW/62) submitted in November, 1962.

The Open-Cast Executive indicated that they are anxious to reduce the stocking ground at the Bebside Disposal Point as quickly as possible and 1964 is still the target date for clearing the site, after which any continuing pollution from the small coal residue left after final clearance is expected to rapidly diminish and should virtually cease after six months.

In the meantime the Northumberland County Education Committee culverted 233 yards of the watercourse across the Campus Site, Bebside, to the junction with the existing culvert.

Egg Pond to Seaton Burn.

Complaint was made of the pollution of a stream used as a water supply for livestock by farmers at Seaton Sluice, the source of the contamination being the deposit of household refuse on land in the Borough by the Borough of Whitley Bay.

Investigation was made by the Health Department of both Councils and by the Chief Pollution Officer of the Northumberland and Tyneside Rivers Board, and immediate remedial measures carried out by constructing a sump to collect the offending effluent which is removed at regular intervals by a gully-emptyer. The Egg Pond was completely cleansed of the accumulation of silt and sludge, and a section of the ditch between the Egg Pond and the Dene was cleansed and flushed with over 5,000 gallons of chlorinated water. These short term measures proved effective in creating an immediate improvement.

A permanent solution to this problem is likely to prove both difficult and costly and the matter is still under review.

Lysdon and Meggie's Burn.

Complaint was received from the Borough Engineer of pollution of Meggie's Burn in the vicinity of the proposed Camping Ground, South Newsham. Investigations showed that the probable source of pollution was from the Storm Water Overflow to the Balfour Sewer and possibly certain wastes from Lysdon Farm. Instructions were given by the Surveyor to the Seaton Valley Urban District Council for the fitting of a scum-board to the storm water overflow and for the cleansing of the disused settlement tanks and screens at Lysdon, through which the overflow discharges to the burn. Further investigations will be made during 1964 to note the effect of these measures.

CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960.

Authorised Sites.

The position at the end of 1963 was as follows:—

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Link House Gardens, Blyth (Holiday Site). | New dual shower block constructed. Planning permission dated 2nd December, 1963, to expire 31st December 1971, issued by Local Planning Authority. |
| 2. Link House Filling Station (now known as Service Garage, Links Road, Blyth. Permanent Residential—Four Caravans). | Planning permission for six touring caravans expired 30.9.62. County Planning Office letter dated 29.5.63 re existing use rights. |
| 3. Old Pottery, South Newsham, (Permanent Residential—Thirty Caravans). | Site Licence dated 15th November, 1963, issued by Blyth Borough Council for Four Permanent Residential Caravans. |
| 4. High House Farm, Bebside (One residential caravan). | No change.
Tar-macadam roadways provided. |
| 5. Malvin's Close. (Permanent Residential—Eight Caravans). | No change. |
| 6. Central Garage, Bebside (One residential caravan). | Site Licence Reviewed—No change●
Permission granted for stay of three months for Building and Engineering operations. |

Unauthorised Sites.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7. Furnace Road, Bebside. | Site Cleared March, 1963. |
| 8. Front Street, Bebside. | Site Cleared June, 1963. |

Proposed Sites.

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| 9. South Newsham. | The provision of a permanent residential caravan site proposed to be owned and operated by the Council was still under review. |
|-------------------|--|

THE CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

Prior Approval. Secs. 3 and 6.

One approval was issued as under:—

<i>Situation</i>	<i>Type of Heating</i>
Blyth Co-operative Society Ltd. Dairy—Aldborough St.	Wet Back Economic—Oil Fired Automatic.

Replacements and Improvements.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Blyth Harbour Commissioners | New Diesel Locomotive in place of coal burning. |
| 2. T. Stephenson & Son, Low Quay. | Coal Fired Mobile Crane converted to Oil Fired. |
| 3. Messrs. Pitwood Ltd., Links Road. | Two Grafton Diesel Mobile Cranes in place of two coal burning. |
| 4. Messrs. G. & N. Wright Ltd., Wensleydale Terrace. | New Timber Mill and Dust Extractions Plant. |
| 5. Presbyterian Church, Waterloo Road. | Gas Fired Potterton No. 2 in place of Coke Fired. |
| 6. Victory Club, Carr Street, Newsham. | Oil Fired Boiler replaced by Ideal "Elite" E.G. 14. Gas Fired Unit. |

New Installations.

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1. Blyth Cricket Club, Plessey Road. | Ducted warm air by "Heatanaïr" Gas Fired Unit. |
| 2. Service Club, Bowes Street. | Ideal "Elite" E.G. 14. Gas Fired Unit. |

Pending.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. Duke of Wellington Social Club, North Farm. | Beeston Oil Fired Automatic. |
| 2. Blyth Central Methodist Church Youth Centre. | Crane 'Carlton' Oiltherm Automatic. |
| 3. Service Tailoring Co. Ltd., Cowpen Road. | Cochrane Boiler. Coal Fired with 'Ridley' Underfeed Stoker. |
| 4. Bebside and Cowpen Boys' Club. | "Drugasar" Convector Gas Heaters. |
| 5. Electrotechnic Ltd., Kitty Brewster Trading Estate. | Overhead Gas Heaters to Factory; "Lincoln" Ducted Warm Air Unit to Offices—Gas Fired. |
| 6. Spartan Hotel, Twelfth Ave. | Two "Lennox" Ducted Warm Air Units—Gas Fired. |

Fly Ash.

Five samples from various points in the Borough were submitted to the Public Analyst for chemical analysis following complaints of the deposit of fly ash, and the following results were received:—

<i>Sample Ref. No.</i>	<i>Result</i>
1/CA/63	No fly ash present.
2/CA/63	Trace only.
3/CA/63	Trace only. Very much less than 1%.
4/CA/63	Approximately 2.5%.
5/CA/63	Approximately 23% of fused rounded particles typical of fly ash.

The results were notified to H.M. Alkali Inspector for investigation.

GENERAL PUBLIC HEALTH MATTERS

Details of the number of visits to Shops, Factories, and under other miscellaneous legislation is given on Pages 50-54. Many of these premises were also visited under Clean Air, or Food and Drugs or Public Health legislation and are enumerated under the appropriate heading. Where required, attention was drawn to defaults.

Animal Destruction.

A new R.S.P.C.A. centre manned by their own personnel was provided at the Albion Yard by the Blyth Borough Council for the humane destruction of domestic animals and birds. This service, which is greatly appreciated by the public, was provided in place of the destruction of dogs only by the Health Department staff.

Pet Animals Act.

There are three licensed traders in the Borough.

Animal Boarding Establishments.

One application was received in respect of an animal boarding establishment at Furnace Road, Bebside, and, following initial inspection of the premises by a Veterinary Surgeon, the Town Clerk issued the appropriate licence.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955

The Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960.

Regular supervision was maintained over the food traders and once again the year revealed little cause for complaint. Due to the construction during recent years of modern shops on the new estates at Cowpen, Newsham Road, Broadway and Seaton Sluice, coupled with the reconstruction or modernisation of several of the food shops in the town centre, there has been a gradual improvement of premises and equipment, and a number of the less satisfactory premises where frequently space and money were the limiting factors in providing a higher standard have now closed.

This does not mean that the duties in relation to food hygiene have been reduced; on the contrary, it means that more time should now be spent on the maintenance and improvement of personal hygiene and food handling. In addition the increase in the number of travelling shops with the attendant problems of congestion, difficulty of adequate cleansing, provision of reasonable hygienic requisites and the limited powers available under the Regulations have made the task of the inspector more difficult. At least with the permanent shop one knew where to find it at any given moment.

I consider that some form of Local Authority registration, not only of these vehicles, but also of the necessary food stores to service them, is long overdue and the Regulations should be amended so as to require that where a stall or vehicle displays any open food for sale, whether for immediate consumption **or not**, the necessary supply of hot water, soap, nailbrushes and clean towels must be provided. This would exempt the small van used solely for delivery, say from a bakery to a retail shop, but would not exempt the trader, such as the butcher, who used his vans for immediate

sales, unless of course he cared to pre-wrap all his products at his shop where the necessary washing facilities were available.

New Premises.

The following newly constructed food premises were opened during the year.

Elliott Street	...	...	Blyth Co-operative Society Ltd., Grocery and Provisions—Self Service.
Isabella Colliery	...	...	Messrs. T. & E. Archbold, Grocery and Provisions.
Twelfth Avenue	...	...	The Spartan Hotel—Licensed Premises.
Cowpen Road	...	...	The Duke of Wellington Social Club, Licensed Premises.

Reconstructed Premises.

The following were reconstructed and refitted.

Renwick Road	...	...	The Thoroton Hotel, Scottish and Newcastle Breweries.
Cowpen Road	...	...	The Kings Arms do.
Newcastle Road	...	...	Off Licence for Blyth Co-operative Society
42 Bowes Street	...	...	Messrs. Thompson & Cochrane, Cafe and Snack Bar.

Changes.

1 Regent Street	Former tobacconist converted to sugar confectionery.
-----------------	-----	-----	--

Closures.

Burt Street	...	...	Duke of Wellington Social Club, Licensed Premises.
Tower Buildings, Salisbury Street	...	...	Manufacture of Potato Crisps and bottling of pickles and shellfish.
19 Princes Gardens	...	...	General Dealer—Demolished.
19 Northumberland Street	...	...	General Dealer—Demolished.
43A Coomassie Road	...	...	General Dealer—Demolished.
564 Plessey Road	...	...	General Dealer—Converted to Gents. Hairdresser.
358 Cowpen Road	...	...	General Dealer—Converted to Betting Shop
4 Marlow Street	...	...	Fish Fryer—Converted to Betting Shop.
3 Balfour Street	...	...	General Dealer—Vacant.
73 Gladstone Street	...	...	General Dealer—Addition to dwelling house.
53 Sidney Street	...	...	Fish Fryer—Addition to dwelling house.
76 Hambledon Street	...	...	Fish Fryer—Closed.

Food Premises.

In accordance with the Ministry of Health's instructions the following information is given regarding food premises in the Borough.

Bakeries	6	Greengrocery	14
Combined Bakeries and Retail Shops	6	Grocery and Provisions ...	46
Retail Bakery	8	Hotels	2
Butchers	20	Ice-Cream Manufacturers ...	2
Cooked Meats	7	Licensed Premises	44
Departmental Stores	3	Licensed Clubs	23
Factory Canteens	6	Off Licences	17
Fish Fryers	15	Mineral Water Manufacturers	1
Food Manufacturers	2	Restaurants, Cafeterias and Snack Bars	12
Food Warehouses	3	School Kitchens	6
General Dealers	67	Sugar Confectionery—Retail ...	25
		Sugar Confectionery—Wholesale	1
		Wet Fish	1

a total of 337

Registrations.

The number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Act are as follows:—

Bakehouses	12
Butchers	20
Cooked Meats	7
Fish Fryers	16
Ice-Cream Manufacturers	2
Ice-Cream Retailers	127
Preserved Food	1

Milk and Dairies Regulations.

The Northumberland County Council are the licensing authority but co-operation is maintained, and milk bottles were collected and forwarded to the Public Health Laboratory with the following results:—

Satisfactory	Fairly Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory	Total
70	2	Nil.	72

This is an extremely high standard, particularly as the bacterial counts per bottle were generally below the prescribed minimum, and reflects great credit on the dairy department of the Blyth Co-operative Society.

Samples of Pasteurised Milk taken by the County Health Inspector gave the following results.

	METHYLENE BLUE TEST		PHOSPHATASE TEST		Total Samples
	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	Satis- factory	Unsatis- factory	
Tuberculin Tested ...	2	—	—	—	2
T.T. Pasteurised (Auto. Vending Machine)	9	1	10	—	20
	1	—	1	—	2
Pasteurised	42	1	42	1	86
	54	2	53	1	110

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1959.

10 Samples of heat treated ice-cream were taken from the principal manufacturer and all samples were Grade 1.

10 Samples were taken of cold mix ice-cream of which 8 were Grade 1, the remaining samples being Grade 2.

The Slaughterhouse Act, 1958.

After protracted negotiations the Blyth Meat Traders' Association ceased occupation of the Slaughterhouse, Plessey Road, on the 31st December, 1963, and a Renewal Licence for the period ending 31st December, 1964, was issued to the new owners, the Blyth Co-operative Society Ltd., who have engaged a consultative firm to prepare a modernisation scheme to the Ministry's standards. It is expected that the work will be completed by the end of 1964.

Animal Health.

Of the 11,411 animals slaughtered, thirty entire carcasses and organs were condemned, this figure, an increase on previous years, being mainly attributable to the condemnation of twenty-two ewe carcasses. It will be noted from the records on P. 48 that the number of ewes slaughtered has increased from 175 in 1962 to 684 in 1963 due to increased purchase by a local retailer of this class of animal for the wholesale meat market.

One entire carcase and organs of a bullock affected with generalised *Cysticercus Bovis* was condemned and one bullock carcase was, with the co-operation of the City of Newcastle Health Department, submitted for refrigeration.

Diseases of Animals.

No notifications were received during the year.

THE MEAT INSPECTION REGULATIONS, 1963.

The main provisions of the new regulations which came into force on the 1st October, 1963 are:—

- (a) Meat at Slaughterhouses must be inspected.
- (b) Meat must not be removed from a Slaughterhouse until it has been inspected.
- (c) Meat inspected and passed for human consumption must be marked.
- (d) Local authorities may charge for the inspection.
- (e) The minimum period of notice of slaughter is extended from 3 hours to 24 hours.

Standard procedures for meat inspection are given in Schedule 1 to the Regulations, replacing the previous procedures recommended in Memo 3/Meat which came into operation on the 1st February, 1953.

Para. 2 of Circular FSH9/63 states “The introduction of these new regulations should provide the means to give effect to the Government’s long standing intention to ensure that all home-killed meat is inspected before it leaves the Slaughterhouse”.

Blyth is in the fortunate position of having enjoyed 100% meat inspection over a period of many years, which in itself has contributed to the high standard of meat purveyed in the town. The ultimate in meat inspection would be to achieve 100% inspection **at the time of slaughter** but, whilst this is not practicable at present, it is true to say that by means of two or three visits each day, together with evening and week-end inspections, we are a fair way to realising this goal.

On the introduction of the new regulations the Council did approve the making of charges for inspection but this was later suspended consequent on the transfer of the slaughterhouse to the new owners. Should slaughtering increase considerably in the future as a result of this change and thus warrant the services of a full-time inspector, it would then be reasonable to reconsider this decision.

A further factor in ensuring adequate coverage is the reciprocal arrangements made with Bedlington and Ashington Urban District Councils to transfer inspectors if and when the need arises.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned

Form D.S. 97727/1

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	2,103	146	1	6,030	3,131
Number inspected	2,034	104	2	5,767	3,480
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	23	5
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	262	26	1	30	93
Percentage of the number inspected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	12.45	17.7	100	0.87	3.1
<i>Tuberculosis only :</i>					
Whole carcases condemned ...	—	—	—	—	1
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	1	—	—	—	32
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis... ..	0.04	—	—	—	1.05
<i>Cysticercosis :</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	105	1	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration ...	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	1	—	—	—	—

It was found necessary to condemn the following entire carcases:—

	Reason for Condemnation	Weight in lbs.
10 Ewes	Emaciation	359
1 Ewe	Septic Peritonitis	58
1 Ewe	Traumatism	42
2 Ewes	Septic Pneumonia	93
2 Ewes	Septic Mastitis	122
2 Ewes	Oedema	88
1 Ewe	Lymphosarcoma	52
2 Ewes	Septic Pneumonia and Emaciation	78
1 Sheep	Moribund	58
1 Ewe	Septicaemia	54
1 Pig	Septic Arthritis	56
1 Pig	Swine Erysipelas and Arthritis	200
1 Pig	Septicaemia	76
1 Pig	Pyæmia	100
1 Pig	Tuberculosis	100
1 Calf	Immaturity	21
1 Bullock	C. Bovis	1,090

Part Carcases and Organs Unfit

	No.	Weight in lbs.
Cattle	333	4,504
Sheep	30	221
Pigs	125	1,384
		} 6,109

Animals Slaughtered—Summary, 1963

Month	Bulls	Bullocks	Heifers	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Total 1963	Total 1962
January ...	—	135	41	9	—	585	266	1036	991
February...	—	126	32	12	—	428	261	859	888
March ...	—	135	29	10	—	313	265	752	902
April ...	—	163	38	12	1	468	279	961	829
May ...	1	143	41	11	—	421	272	889	789
June ...	1	122	30	8	—	342	195	698	758
July ...	—	136	51	13	—	564	179	943	1069
August ...	—	118	46	12	—	562	207	945	1049
September	—	135	44	14	—	636	250	1079	1004
October ...	—	145	43	13	—	635	279	1115	1145
November ...	—	137	39	13	—	598	260	1047	988
December ...	—	137	35	19	—	478	418	1087	975
Total 1963 ...	2	1632	469	146	1	6030	3131	11411	
	2250								
Totals 1962 ...	1	1508	525	104	2	5767	3480	—	11387
	2140								
1963	Sows		Boars		Tups		Ewes	All included in totals of Summary	
	503		1		—		684		
1962	473		4		1		175		

Details of Slaughtering, 1963

	Slaughtering Days	Overtime Days	Hours	Saturdays	Sundays	Bank Holidays	Inspections
January ...	19	11	11	—	—	—	37
February ...	18	9	9½	—	—	—	37
March ...	21	8	8½	—	—	—	31
April ...	21	12	13½	—	—	Easter Monday	41
May ...	23	11	11½	—	Whit.	Monday	50
June ...	21	9	9½	—	—	—	41
July ...	23	11	11½	—	—	—	39
August ...	22	3	3	—	—	Bank Hol. Monday	41
September ...	19	11	12¼	—	—	—	50
October ...	23	13	18	—	—	—	59
November ...	21	13	19	—	—	—	50
December ...	23	16	26	1	2	—	69
	254	127	153	1	3	3	545

UN SOUND FOOD

The following complaints as to unsatisfactory or unsound foodstuffs were attended to during the year:—

1. Discoloured cereal biscuit. Public Analyst report merely agglomeration of the ingredients. Manufacturer notified.
2. Unsound Peaches (231 dozen cans). Presence of wasps. Consignment destroyed. Importers and arbitrators notified.
3. Loaf affected with mould. Bakery notified.
4. Steak and Kidney Pie affected with mould. Manufacturers and retailer notified *re* stock rotation.
5. Insect in Jam. Manufacturer notified.
6. Dairy Cream (22 jars) Out of condition. Manufacturer and retailer notified *re* stock rotation.
7. Insect in Pie. Manufacturer notified.
8. Pastry affected with mould. Manufacturer and retailer notified *re* stock rotation.
9. Discolouration of luncheon meat. Public Health Laboratory stated not due to bacterial action and not significant.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered for examination and being found unfit for human consumption were destroyed.

				Tins	Jars	Pkts.	lbs.
Meat	...	...	...	1,840	2	—	36
Fruit	...	...	...	4,285	—	—	28
Vegetables	...	...	...	2,555	—	—	—
Milk	...	...	...	743	—	—	—
Fish	...	...	...	373	—	—	—
Soup	...	...	...	897	—	—	—
Puddings	...	...	...	529	—	—	—
Fruit Juice	...	...	...	60	—	—	—
Coffee	...	...	...	4	—	—	—
Preserves	...	...	...	17	16	—	—
Cereals	...	...	...	—	—	160	—
Bacon	...	...	...	—	—	—	180
Cheese	...	...	...	—	—	—	9
Butter	...	...	...	—	5	—	—

ANNUAL REPORT, 1963

Number of inspections made during the year 1963		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(a) PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936.															
Inspections following complaints—															
General ... ..	...	37	37	31	41	50	41	39	26	41	36	44	25	448	
Re-inspections re outstanding	...														
Notices ... ..	...	30	58	39	85	44	42	34	30	56	50	71	44	583	
Dangerous Buildings	...					2								2	
Drainage ... ..	...	11	7	10	15	17	10	10	28	4	15	20	11	158	
Keeping of animals	...				8	5	3	2	3	2	5	1	1	30	
Licensed Premises	...	1	1		1		4	1	3	1	5	1	7	25	
Mortuary ... ..	...		1		1			3	1	2		1		9	
Piggeries ... ..	...	1	4	5	1									10	
Places of Public Entertainment	...			2	1			2	1				3	9	
Public Conveniences	...		1			1		18	1	2				23	
Refuse Tips ... ..	...	6	3		7	4				1	1	3		25	
Vacant sites & dilapidated buildings	...	3	5	5	5	8	12	6	4	3	2			53	
Watercourses	...	6	5			16	7	10	8	1	3			56	
Water supplies	...				3	3	6	6	5	1	1			25	
Miscellaneous	...	11	17	10	26	19	12	2	12	26	19	18	12	184	
														1,640	1,640
(b) AGRICULTURE (WELFARE PROVI-															
SIONS) ACT.	...														
Farms ... ..	...		1											1	
(c) CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF															
DEVELOPMENT ACT, 1960	...														
Sites ... ..	...	12	28	17	6	15	7	13	9	8	4	3	1	123	
do. unlicensed	...						1							1	
														124	1,765

Number of inspections made during the year 1963		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(d)	CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956														
	Inspection of Plant	22	5	6	3	—	2	—	1	—	3	3	1	46	
	Smoke nuisances	3	5	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	6	—	—	20	
	Smoke observations	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	
	General	3	8	2	—	2	2	—	3	1	1	3	7	32	
														102	1,867
(e)	Factories Act, 1961														
	Mechanical Power	13	22	6	3	5	2	4	2	3	2	2	12	76	
	No mechanical power	1	3	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	8	
														84	1,951
(f)	INFECTIOUS DISEASES (NOTIFI- CATIONS) ACTS														
	Investigations made	7	10	6	6	10	4	3	1	4	5	1	3	60	
														60	2,011
(g)	NOISE ABATEMENT ACT, 1960														
	Inspections made	—	1	2	—	3	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	8	
														8	2,019
(h)	PESTS ACT, 1949														
	Allotments	—	3	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	9	
	Agricultural holdings	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	
	Dwelling houses	3	8	2	2	2	4	4	—	—	—	—	—	25	
	Council properties	3	2	7	3	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	21	
	Other properties	2	2	1	—	—	—	3	9	—	—	1	—	18	
														76	2,095
(i)	PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951														
	Investigations made	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	2	
														2	2,097

Number of inspections made during the year 1963		Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	Grand Total
(j)	Shops Act, 1950 Sanitary and other arrangements in Shops	11	16	6	2	6	—	2	9	24	1	5	23	105	
(k)	Housing Act, 1957 Investigations re overcrowding and housing conditions	5	7	10	1	13	2	11	1	12	10	8	4	105	2,202
	Houses in Clearance Areas	—	—	—	1	17	19	1	2	1	—	—	1	84	
	Corporation Houses	13	3	9	4	7	2	12	8	6	3	6	6	79	
	Housing Survey	38	11	13	5	9	4	4	—	—	3	2	11	100	
	General	2	—	2	4	3	—	—	3	3	—	2	2	21	
														326	2,528
	<i>Part II</i> Individual unfit Houses	4	7	2	6	5	15	18	19	20	3	8	4	111	
	Repairs	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	
	Undertakings	7	6	2	4	2	8	3	6	4	3	—	—	45	
	<i>Part III</i> Clearance Areas	2	2	—	9	1	2	54	10	18	67	154	5	324	2,686
	Redevelopment Areas	1	—	—	4	6	1	1	2	2	2	2	—	21	
														345	3,031
(l)	Housing Acts, 1958 & 1959 Improvement Grants	45	19	36	43	40	33	17	31	33	17	15	162	491	
	Agricultural Dwellings	3	—	14	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	20	
														511	3,542
(m)	Housing Act, 1961 Houses in Multiple Occupation	—	—	—	—	8	13	16	8	—	3	3	—	51	3,593

Number of inspections made during the year 1963														Grand Total
	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	
(n)														
RENT ACT, 1957	2	2	1	—	—	3	3	—	3	2	8	2	26	
Certificates of Disrepair ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	26	3,619
(o)														
FOOD & DRUGS ACT, 1955	35	49	42	49	52	45	39	41	50	59	50	69	580	
Abattoir—meat inspection	3	49	9	9	6	1	10	7	13	3	1	3	114	
do. —alterations	11	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	
Diseases of animals	...	7	2	—	13	—	1	1	—	2	—	1	27	
Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	35	
Bakery and Confectionery Shops	5	6	6	2	3	2	1	—	6	1	2	3	35	
Butchers' Shops ...	3	13	11	5	3	2	7	17	6	3	5	20	95	
Canteens and Snack Bars	1	1	1	1	6	3	1	—	1	1	1	—	16	
Fish and Chip Shops	2	3	1	4	—	3	8	7	6	9	2	3	48	
Food Manufacturing Premises	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	
Food Stalls ...	16	16	25	—	17	30	31	31	12	—	10	41	229	
Food Vehicles ...	1	12	2	5	9	9	8	6	3	—	1	2	58	
General Dealer Shops	...	13	22	7	5	4	3	1	4	2	11	12	84	
Greengrocery Shops	...	...	5	1	—	—	—	—	3	—	1	2	23	
Grocery and Provision Shops	4	24	6	2	3	1	1	1	4	2	4	12	64	
Ice-Cream Premises—	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) manufacturing	...	1	—	3	2	—	2	5	2	—	—	—	15	
(b) retail	2	1	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	1	5	2	15	
Licensed Premises ...	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	
Preserved Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	15	
Restaurants and Cafes	1	5	2	6	—	—	—	—	1	1	4	7	33	
Sugar Confectionery	...	7	1	—	8	2	2	1	—	1	—	—	13	
Unsound food examination	1	4	—	—	2	1	5	11	—	10	8	6	132	
Wet fish shops	7	10	7	14	9	23	9	11	18	10	—	1	4	
General ...	...	...	2	1	3	2	1	1	—	7	4	3	26	
(p)														
MILK AND DAIRIES ORDERS	...	...	3	2	—	—	13	—	1	3	2	—	1,645	5,264
Dairies and Equipment	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	24	
Heat treatment plant	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	3	
													27	5,291

Number of inspections made during the year 1963													Grand Total		
(g)	SAMPLING Chemical— (a) Water ... (b) Other foods ... (c) Fly Ash	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Totals	5,304
		—	2	—	1	3	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	
		—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	
		—	—	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	5	
	Bacteriological— (a) Milk bottles ... (b) Water ... (c) Ice-Cream ... (d) Other foods ... (e) Faeces ... (f) Sputum ... (g) Throat swabs	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	13	5,494
		3	3	4	3	2	12	9	1	2	1	1	1	72	
		—	—	—	2	4	4	4	4	2	—	—	1	42	
		—	—	1	—	1	1	—	—	2	2	—	1	20	
	(r)														7,261
		7	5	—	—	6	14	1	—	—	1	—	—	34	
		1	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	5	
		—	—	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	
	MISCELLANEOUS Miscellaneous inspections and inter-views ... No. of informal Notices served ... No. of Statutory Notices served ... No. of houses and buildings treated for eradication of insect pests ... No. of items of bedding, clothing, etc., destroyed by request ... Choked drains cleansed ...	8	22	16	14	9	14	13	3	1	2	11	—	190	7,400
		14	6	9	8	3	3	11	10	8	11	11	5	113	
		9	9	16	19	3	14	—	—	5	13	8	4	100	
		15	11	24	23	51	32	48	65	29	28	32	23	381	
		45	58	112	103	101	123	128	63	69	74	74	57	1,007	7,821
		7	2	6	8	6	2	8	5	1	8	6	8	67	
		6	4	7	3	1	—	5	6	3	3	—	8	1,767	
		11	3	10	13	6	—	10	1	12	13	—	14	46	
(s)	Informal Notices complied Statutory " "													93	7,400
														139	
														421	
														421	
	LAND CHARGES ACT, 1925 Searches ...	17	28	34	40	52	19	39	34	43	43	41	31		

